

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 FREETO 01665 251316Z  
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10  
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11  
NEA-11 HA-05 /080 W  
-----112808 252112Z /73

R 251249Z MAY 78  
FM AMEMBASSY FREETOWN  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7742  
INFO AMEMBASSY CONAKRY  
AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE FREETOWN 1665

EO 11652: NA  
TAGS: PGOV, PINT, SL  
SUBJ: ONE PARTY STATE CONSTITUTION PASSES PARLIAMENT

REF: FREETOWN 1628

1. PARLIAMENT, ON SCHEDULE, PASSED THE CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT ACT, 1978 ON WEDNESDAY, MAY 24, WHICH DECLARES SIERRA LEONE A ONE PARTY STATE. ACCORDING TO A MINISTRY OF INFORMATION BULLETIN EIGHTY-ONE MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT, SIX MORE THAN THE NECESSARY TWO-THIRDS, VOTED FOR THE AMENDMENT. ONLY THREE SLPP PARLIAMENTARIANS REPORTEDLY VOTED AGAINST THE BILL, SIX ABSTAINED AND TWO PRESUMABLY WERE ABSENT. SLPP LEADER JUSU SHERIFF, MANA KPAKA AND GEORGE SIAFFA WERE NAMED AS VOTING AGAINST THE NEW CONSTITUTION.

2. NEXT STEP BEFORE ADOPTION OF THE CONSTITUTION IS APPROVAL IN A NATIONAL REFERENDUM BY AT LEAST ONE-HALF OF ALL PERSONS ENTITLED TO VOTE OR BY NOT LESS THAN TWO THIRDS OF ALL VOTES VALIDLY CAST. A BILL APPROVING THE HOLDING OF THE REFERENDUM IS EXPECTED TO BE PASSED ON FRIDAY, MAY 26 AND THE DATE OF THE REFERENDUM WILL BE ANNOUNCED IN THE SIERRA LEONE  
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GAZETTE. THE REFERENDUM ACT, 1978 SPECIFIES THAT THE QUESTION TO BE PLACED BEFORE THE PUBLIC IS: QUOTE THE GOVERNMENT HAS PUBLISHED A ONE PARTY REPUBLICAN CONSTITUTION FOR SIERRA LEONE, AND PARLIAMENT HAS ADOPTED IT. DO YOU AGREE THAT THE REPUBLIC OF SIERRA LEONE SHOULD BE GOVERNED BY THE ONE PARTY CONSTITUTION ALREADY ADOPTED BY PARLIAMENT? IF THE ANSWER IS YES PLEASE VOTE IN THE RED BALLOT BOX. IF THE ANSWER IS NO

PLEASE VOTE IN THE BLACK BALLOT BOX. UNQUOTE. THE BILL ALSO PROHIBITS ANY JUDICIAL CHALLENGE TO THE ACCURACY OF THE COUNT.

3. BEGIN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE. EMBASSY COMMENT: SOURCES LIVING IN THE EASTERN AND SOUTHERN PROVINCES, BOTH SLPP STRNGHOLDS, SAY THAT LOCAL POPULATIONS APPEAR BOTH APPREHENSIVE ABOUT AND RESIGNED TO THE EVENTUALITY OF THE ONE PARTY STATE. THEY DO NOT FORSEE DEMONSTRATIONS OR OTHER ANTI-GOVERNMENT MANIFESTATIONS TAKING PLACE DURING THE REFERENDUM. LEBANESE CHARGE SAID LEBANESE IN RURAL AREAS ARE COMPLAINING OF INCREASING PRESSURE FOR CONTRIBUTIONS TO LOCAL APC ORGANIZATIONS. END EMBASSY COMMENT. END LIMITED OFFICIAL USE. NORTH

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** ONE PARTY GOVERNMENT, CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 25 may 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
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**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
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**Subject:** ONE PARTY STATE CONSTITUTION PASSES PARLIAMENT  
**TAGS:** PGOV, PINT, SL  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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